

EDITORIAL

Seasons Greetings to all

When we published our last newsletter there was less than one month to go to our 8th National Reunion in Hobart. That most successful reunion has now come and gone and is now most pleasant memories in our minds. We thoroughly enjoyed the reunion and were loath to have it end

Included in this newsletter you will find:

- o A review of the 8th National Reunion.
- o News from our various Groups
- o A few more words on the search for the WW2 HMAS Sydney.
- o Some comments on the treatment of Basal Cell Carcinomas as personally experienced by one of our members.
- o Information relating to
- o Other matters of general interest.

Not only was 2006 the year in which South Australia had one of the driest winters in over 100 years there was talk of Australia experiencing one of the worst droughts in a 1,000 years! We have also experienced some terrible bushfires in three States which arrived earlier than is usual in normal years. We can but hope that 2007 will see the return of normal rainfall patterns. The rain continues to mainly fall over the Southern Ocean and misses the land to the north! Water (and the lack of it) has become a dominant topic.



OUR 8TH NATIONAL REUNION, HOBART 2006

What a fabulous time was had by the attendees of our 8th National Reunion in Hobart during October, 2006! It was obvious throughout the reunion that the Tasmanian Reunion Committee had paid attention to detail and so everything went smoothly and ensured maximum enjoyment for all attendees.

For some, the reunion commenced on the Spirit of Tasmania during the Bass Strait crossing when groups met up and enjoyed the evening immensely. Some were left wondering why they had bothered to pay for a cabin when considering the little time spent in it!

The real reunion commenced at noon on Tuesday, 24th October, 2006 with Registration being conducted in a foyer of the Old Building of The Old Woolstore Hotel in Macquarie Street, Hobart. A memorabilia display had been set up at the Registration area to provide some added interest for attendees. Attendees were provided with name badges, event details applicable to the individuals, tourist information, discounts applicable to DIY tours and a Hobart Reunion 2006 souvenir baseball type cap. Tour time preferences were agreed (allocated at Registration) and there was an opportunity to select your preferred table with friends for the Official Dinner.

A majority of attendees had booked their accommodation in The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel where the core events were to take place and was also the main coach pickup and return point for various events throughout the reunion. The standard of accommodation was excellent and the hotel staff were very helpful and attentive to our needs.

The Meet and Greet commenced at 1800 in the Merino Room of the Old Woolstore Hotel with finger food served throughout and a bar in operation. It was obvious from the level of animated conversation that the chemistry of mateship was alive and well!

This day was the occasion of Reuben McDonald's birthday and the entire assembly gave a resounding rendition of Happy Birthday to Reuben, much to his delight!

It was a most enjoyable evening!

Wednesday, 25th October, 2006 saw the Tour of the Cadbury various samples of and a box of chocolates at the end and then a

illed ourselves of the numerous Cadbury product lines with Factory Discount pricing at the end of the tour. It was just like kids in a lolly shop and most couldn't

So, it was back to the respective accommodation, lunch and then off on the afternoon tour of the famous Cascade Brewery. Due to the numbers involved a shuttle bus was arranged with our reunion attendees being assembled into groups with a guide on arrival at the Cascade Brewery. We were treated to an extensive and interesting tour of the brewery with our guide explaining the history and workings of the brewery and its products. Some attendees preferred to wander through the brewery famous Woodstock Gardens and meet up with the others, at the end of their tour, in the Visitor Centre. In the Visitor Centre there was an opportunity to taste the premium Cascade beers, which was included in the price of the tour. We learnt that some of their special products are only sold in Tasmania and are not available in the big island to the north of Tassie! We took the opportunity to purchase some of the special brews from the Visitor Centre shop so as to be able to partake of the forbidden nectar on our return to the big island to the north!

Allen Hoskins, our Western Australian Convenor had volunteered to present an audio/visual presentation on the Loss of HMAS Sydney in WW2. This presentation had attracted intense interest from our reunion attendees and was put on for Thursday, 26th October, 2006 was a Attendees made the most of the free time to indulge in DIY activities which included shopping, city bus tours, river boat tours, meandering around the historic harbour front and city or just simply relaxing. The Old Woolstore Hotel was very conveniently located for indulging in DIY activities and Hobart is steeped in early Australian history.

The venue for the Official Dinner was the Merino Room of The Old Woolstore Hotel which with the assistance of the Senior Navy Officer

The original plan for the evening had included a Reception at Tasmanian Government House immediately prior to the Official Dinner. At Government House the attendees would have been provided with a liberal serving of finger food. However, as Government House had a conflict of bookings due to an extended requirement of visiting Dutch Royalty, our Government House Reception was postponed until Saturday, 28th October, 2006

This change of plan meant that finger food then needed to be provided as initial starters at the Official Dinner. This cost was met from Reunion Committee funding/subsidies.

The place mats on the tables were a souvenir item and were produced by Monica & Joe Charlton and was a laminated pouch containing a picture of the HMAS Diamantina Radio Room

Our Guests of Honour for the evening were the Senior Naval Officer, Tasmania, Commander Mark Burling RAN and Mrs. Lyn Burling.

Our Guest Speaker for the evening was Lieutenant David Wichmann, RAN BEE accompanied by Paula Fleming; David is presently with the Directorate of Navy Professional Requirements (Engineering and Logistics) SO Publications and is the present Editor of the Navy Engineering Bulletin Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer who was promoted from the Ranks.

George Stevens was Master of Ceremonies for the evening and once again conducted proceedings to a very high standard with ~~Arrival of Buffet~~ was set up in an adjacent room proportions and very appetizing. Deserts were served at the table with coffee and chocolates following.

Our Guest Speaker then entertained us with a humorous discourse of life in todayred his soul to the audience who warmed to his honest recounts of his life in the present day Navy. We older

The National President, John Saywell, then responded, but, said he wasnsoul bared on events in the Navy in his early days and would plead exemption under the 5th Amendment to the Constitution or whatever other subterfuge he could to avoid incriminating himself. The President particularly welcomed Reuben McDonald who participated in the very first organised RAN Radar Course at HMAS Rushcutter in 1942 and Jack Cations, George Holland, Jim McLure and Tom Palmer who represented Radio Mechanics of the 1942-1945 era who completed their RAN technical training at the then Melbourne Technical College. John Saywell remarked that the numbers of WW2 Radio Mechanics present had sadly thinned over recent years!

Kath Porter and Denis Barrett were also particularly welcomed to the reunion and represented ex WW2 British Pacific Fleet Radio Mechanics who served in Australia and the Pacific War Zone at that time.

John Saywell compared the responsibilities of today Radio Mechanicsio Mechanic per ship or perhaps he would be responsible for two ships. Today, the equipment is far more sophisticated and integrated fully with advanced weapon systems and powerful computers. Today

The President thanked the Tasmanian Reunion Committee for their superior effort in organising an excellent, well-balanced entertaining and cost effective reunion programme. The main & Joe Charlton who were exceptional with their organising capacity and capability who were undaunted with hip and knee replacements at the latter end of organising the reunion. Special thanks were also given to Russell & Pauline Watson who provided support to Joe & Monica Charlton.

Thanks and appreciation was also given to John Bannister, our National Treasurer who also undertook the duties of the Reunion Committee Treasurer. Our Guest Speaker, David Wichmann, and George Stevens our MC were thanked for their contribution to the success of the evening.

The SNO

The President pointed out that if it had not been for George Stevensacknowledged the contribution by George Stevens in the Associations beginning and the books produced by George recording early RAN Radio Mechanic history.

Further, John Saywell stressed that for the Association to flourish that it was essential that younger who have accepted positions in the National Organisation but it is essential that younger members assume the top roles in the near future. This should happen in a smooth, orderly manner rather than being forced on us due to some problem or other. Any volunteers with a practical solution? This is a time to volunteer!

The President said that at this stage of the reunion he begins to hear the question of,
With the speeches completed the attendees got on with the serious business of reminiscing and consolidating mateship.

It was another great night!

Friday, 27th October, 2006 was the day for the bus trip to Port Arthur, the historic penal settlement of the early days of the colony. We were given a guided introductory tour of the settlement and treated to some typical Port Arthur weather with a downpour (or two) and some hail just to liven us up a bit! It didn

We went on a Harbour Cruise aboard the luxury catamaran MV Marana in brilliant sunshine. During this cruise we were provided with an explanation of the shipbuilding at Port Arthur, the Boys and the Isle of the Dead. Whilst at Port Arthur there was an opportunity for a walk through the Interpretive Galley located in the Visitor Centre. On the way back to Hobart, the coaches called in at the Tessellated Pavements

We had a free day on Saturday, 28th October, 2006 , so there was another opportunity for more DIY activities. Saturday is the day to visit the Salamanca Market with its hundreds of stalls among historic sandstone warehouses, now converted to cafes and galleries. There were numerous reunion attendees faces to be seen among the crowd throughout the market.

The first event scheduled for the Saturday evening was the Government House Reception with everyone dressed in their canapn d liquid refreshments although we were free to roam through a number of the formal rooms. The Governor and his wife were most relaxed and had everyone relaxed and enjoying the occasion which was the highlight of our reunion! Unfortunately it all had to wrap up on Sunday 29th October as we were departing on the Brookfield Winery Sun of the Coast at Margate, south of the city. There was a relaxed atmosphere in the rustic Brookfield Winery where we were provided with a substantial meal and entertained by the Bush Band. Quite a number of the attendees became very accomplished at Bush Dancing before the evening was over. The wine social on Sunday 29th October sign 2006 only reduced by a small amount our final reunion event iling Squadron. This was an excellent choice of venues for the BBQ. Outside the Squadron Clubrooms were lawns running down to the Derwent River and there were sailing boats everywhere! It was a beautiful sunny day; the bar was open and providing good service. The BBQ was in BBQ food with the most filling the salads and accompaniments and plenty of coffee than enough of excellent fare to satisfy healthy appetites. There were magnificent deserts to follow!

The President said a few brief words to those present with a farewell until we meet again at another time and place yet to be announced.

A few of the reunion attendees remained in Tasmania for some time, taking the opportunity to do some touring of the Beautiful Apple Isle.

Elizabeth Drury, - Qld - Not known at this address

~~N~~**He Jenkins** - Vic - Not known at this address

~~P~~**Kennedy** - NSW - Left address

~~R~~**ascoe** Qld - Insufficient Address

~~E~~**d Wilkinson** Qld - Not at this address

E W FINDS

W e are always pleased to advise of some o welcome to:-

ith Carter FND sed in Everton Park, Qld.

dis Clem FND in Camira, Qld.

May Stringer O/No. R93935 served Jan 1963 to Jan 1983 is in Adelaide, SA.

ian Whiteman awaiting further details, living in Upper Gravatt, Qld.

Ed to see you back among us!

ase, any of our readers, if you are able to provide contact addresses, leads, names, preferably with given names/initials

MEMORIAM

Hay, we advise that we have received no sad reports of losses of our colleagues and long may it stay that way!

STERN AUSTRALIAN GROUP NEWS

He

Saids Once again, thanks to Bob Flett for sending out the invitations and liaising with the yacht club management for another pleasant get-together. Those in attendance were:

By*Boyd and Wendy, John & Judith Cleary,*

Min & Norma Devereux, Reg & Peg Doran with daughter Lee, Don & Barbara Duncan,

dk & Jenny Duperouzel, Bob & Lyn Flett,

Kim & Val Leggo, and grandson Joshua,

Steve & Margaret Llewellyn, Betty Marshall,

Ray & Margaret Raine and Keith & Doris Taylor.

ologies were received from Les Fox (still recovering from an operation), Max Garth who was unwell and Gwen Rann who was interstate.

BBQ duties were carried out by Don Duncan & Steve Llewellyn who showed this was not the first time they had twirled the tongs despite a recalcitrant gas fire. Thanks chaps. Also thanks to Ron Rowe for his great efforts in keeping our Name & Address file in order and badges up to date. Thanks to Trevor Leggo for his reunion CD's, if anyoneperouzel has a CD and pictures on the FAA Sea Furies. eston won the champers on her birthday. (Yes I would). Trevor Leggo and Wendy Boyd won the other two prizes.

The main topic of conversation was the Hobart reunion and everyone was full of praise Wagga-Wagga, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Darwin, Kalgoorlie skins also stressed the need for a more even contribution from all members, particularly material for the newsletter. Come on you mess deck chatterboxes; everyone has a story or dit to contribute. No, I don't necessarily mean about your runs ashore in days gone by! We have a lot of highly competent members who have shone in many fields of endeavour, not in the past, but in the present. It is important that we maintain communication between our regular meetings. Any suggestions to improve K

N Rann who had a series of medical problems during the 7th National Reunion in Caloundra in 2004 and got to know quite a number of Queensland Doctors and hospitals at the time braved it again and towed his caravan to Hobart for the 8th National Reunion. This time Vic got through his entire tour without a medical event and made up for what he missed in the Caloundra reunion! Vic was

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SA /NT GROUP NEWS

An appreciable number of SA/NT Group Members journeyed to Hobart for the 8th National Reunion in October, 2006 and had a most enjoyable time. Those attending the reunion were most appreciative of the excellent arrangements made for the Hobart Reunion by the Tasmanian Reunion Committee. A number of reunion attendees combined some touring activities with another very successful Luncheon on Sunday, 19th November, 2006 at the Hampstead Hotel, Collingwood, SA. There was much conversation whilst catching up with each other.

Don & Janice Akeroyd, John Bannister,

Rod & Marlene Bannon, Kevin & Joan Bonney,

Ken & Jo Bryant, Michael & Kathleen Cain,

Sheila Campbell & Ron, Jim & Thelma Cunneen, Pat & Julie Delavia, Kevin & Nadean Egan,

Gill & Laura Harrington, Alison Kerr, Chris & Doris Lambert, Glen & Barbara Lewis, Archie McArthur,

Tom & Dulcie Palmer, Bill Russack, John & Moira Saywell, Colin Shillabeer, Greg & Nancy Sharp,

Bill & Margaret Stevens, Brian & Val Sweeney and Leah and Myra Tindal.

Apologies were received from:-

Joy Bannister, Dick & Bev Hamson, Doug & Norma Hawke, Sid & Joan May, Meg McArthur and Von Peterson.

The next SA/NT Group Luncheon date will be announced in the following Newsletter, due to be published in March, 2007. Contacts:

John Saywell (08) 8344 1554
Kevin Bonney (08) 8337 3051
Ken Bryant (08) 8265 4909

QUEENSLAND GROUP NEWS

~~The Queensland group will find the Queensland National Reunion in Hobart, October 2007, an interesting and enjoyable programme of events.~~

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NEW SOUTH WALES GROUP NEWS

~~The~~ NSW Group has gone into a quiet period, relaxing over the festive season, but, will be back in action in 2007.

There were quite a few attendees, from NSW, at the 8th National Reunion in Hobart where they had an excellent experience throughout the reunion programme. Some of the NSW attendees combined some touring of Tasmania in with the reunion, so adding to the pleasure of the trip.

Contacts: George or Shirley Stevens:

Te

L. No: (02) 9456 4007 email: gws@pacific.net.au

or Tony Ramsay: Tel. No. (02) 9477 1911

ACT/VICTORIA/TASMANIA GROUP NEWS

~~The~~ The next Victorian/Tasmanian Group Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, 7th February, 2007 at the Dandenong RSL. A pre-luncheon meeting will be held in the RSL Boardroom commencing at 1130. A Victorian/Tasmanian Reunion will be held on the 8th National Reunion in Hobart. The Victorian/Tasmanian Group had a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Monica and Joe Charlton are to be congratulated for the excellent arrangements for the Hobart Reunion.

Victorians who managed to get some sea time in, travelling across Bass Strait in the Spirit of Tasmania were Mick & Phyllis George, Lofty & Sue Watson, Jack & Winsome Cations, Jim & Marie Pryor, Kevin & Nina Mills, Val Poppins, Grace Davies and John & Lorraine Laughton.

Braine & John Laughton extended their visit to Tasmania for the reunion and toured the Tasmanian east coast accompanied by Kath & Bill Robertson.

At the Hobart reunion Nina and Kevin Mills held the winning ticket for the magnificent framed painting of HMAS Australia. Since returning to Victoria Nina & Kevin have generously donated the painting to the Dandenong RSL

which has been taking on the appearance of a Navy Establishment since John Laughton has once more assumed the position of Honorary Secretary at the RSL.

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John Shackleton, 254 Lawrence Rd, Mt. Waverley, Vic. 3149. Tel. No. (03) 9802 7694

Mike George, 10 Bruce Street, Laverton, Vic. 3028

Tel. No. 03 9369 5805; Mob No. 0401 583 319

ACT GROUP NEWS

Some of the ACT Group Members made the journey to Hobart for the 8th National Reunion and enjoyed the excellent, entertaining programme of events.

Belconnen Transmitting Station now decommissioned, has been undergoing some structural changes 0 foot masts have been dismantled and there are plans by the Department of Defence to produce some historical documentation about Belconnen. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details about Belconnen aspects.

Contact:

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Email: jlittle@actewagl.net.au

Duty Convenor: Gordon (Gus) Allan,

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USA/CANADA GROUP NEWS

The USA/Canada Group was represented at the 8th National Reunion in Hobart by Robert (Prof) Caudwell. At most previous National Reunions Prof Caudwell has been accompanied by Nev (Bomber) Brown and their respective spouses, however, on this occasion, other commitments prevented this from occurring. Prof never-the-less had a most enjoyable time meeting up with old mates at the reunion.

Prof Caudwell urges other members of the USA/Canada Group to attend future National Reunions as he considers they are missing out on some most enjoyable and entertaining programmes! In fact Prof Caudwell wrote to Les Figg on his return to the USA after attending the 8th National Reunion in Hobart and spending some time in Perth visiting his only sister and

Prof remarked that it was time that some others, resident in the USA, made the effort to attend the reunions in Australia rather than leaving it to Bomber Brown and himself to be the regular attendees!

Big aware of the changeable weather, at that time of year, in Tasmania Prof took the precaution of acquiring a plastic poncho (very cheap) for the trip. On the tour to Port Arthur, Prof was overcome with intense smugness when it began to rain and issued himself with a medal. Prof flew to Perth to spend quality time with his Sister. Whilst there, he found out that just like America, Australian couches have imbedded hypos. Awaking from an induced sleep in front of the telly he was just in time to catch the late night movie. With the movie over at around 3 am he sauntered downstairs headed for the bunk when he noticed a strange flickering through the sliding glass door. In looking out the door he found the side fence was on fire along with a gum stump on the next door neighbor's property.

Not being Navy trained in fire fighting and damage control he made a command decision to call the Fire Brigade. The only problem being he did not know what number to call. Once again, calling on Navy training, he assessed the situation, raced upstairs and delegated to his sister (junior by 5 years) to handle liaison between the property owner (her) and the Fire Brigade. In a matchless period of time the Fearless Fire Fighters arrived and quickly extinguished the conflagration.

One important point he wanted to make is that if it was not for his Pussers training, his sister would have lost her MG-B in the garage alongside the fence.

He says that he loves it now because she owes him!

Fortunately only joking as he is very happy that he happened to be in the right place at the right time.

L. Figg

We will be the usual Anzac Day Gathering to take place in Cay u c o s , California in April, 2007.

Links of the Figg's can be provided in the next Newsletter due for publication in March

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UK GROUP NEWS

Sons greetings to all from the UK Group. Planning is now advanced for the June, 2007 UK Group reunion with 21

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THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee met on Wednesday, 6th December, 2006. The recent 8th National Reunion was the main topic covered at the meeting. The meeting agreed that the reunion was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. A letter of appreciation was sent to Monica & Joe Charlton thanking them for a job well done beyond the call of duty!

The National Committee was most appreciative of the excellent commitment of Monica & Joe!

MAS SYDNEY SEARCH

In our last newsletter we reported that there had been a media release to the effect that the forensic search team on Christmas Island had located human remains and some clothing fabric in an unmarked grave in the search area. The human remains are believed to be the remains being searched for and those of the dead sailor recovered in a life-raft from the sea, off Christmas Island, in February, 1942. It is believed that the sailor had come from the WW2 HMAS Sydney which had been lost in action with the German raider, Kormoran off the Western Australian coast, near Geraldton on 19th November, 1941.

Recovered remains were taken to Sydney, NSW for further forensic examination. DNA results and dental records will be used in an effort to positively identify the body. However, it is understood that half of the medical and dental records were lost with HMAS Sydney when it was sunk.

piece of shrapnel was found in the skull of the body r the wreck of HMAS Sydney off the Western Australian coastline and world-renowned ship wreck hunter David Mearns says he has a 70 a systematic sonar scan of the seabed and photographic/video confirmation.

Technology exists to find and examine the wreck of HMAS Sydney, but, the search still presents a massive challenge because of the large search area and waters up to 4.5 Kms deep!

↳ sites of interest are:-

WW

w.findingsydney.com

www.bluewater.uk.com

THE MISSING WW2 JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE

On a recent 60 Minutes TV programme it was revealed that a group of amateur divers had located what is believed to be the missing Japanese midget submarine that had managed to escape to the open sea after the raid in Sydney Harbour on the night of 31st May, 1942.

the 60 Minutes TV programme there were many compelling camera images of the wreck that certainly matched the ~~missing~~ ~~Nation~~ ~~Off~~ ~~Japan~~ ~~had~~ ~~confirmed~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~line~~ ~~was~~ ~~there~~ ~~presented~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~60~~ ~~Minutes~~ ~~TV~~ ~~documentary~~ ~~was~~ ~~consistent~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~wreck~~ ~~found~~ ~~off~~ ~~a~~ ~~Sydney~~ ~~northern~~ ~~suburb~~ ~~beach~~ ~~being~~ ~~that~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~missing~~ ~~Japanese~~ ~~miniature~~ ~~submarine~~. The actual location is being kept secret in an effort to minimise unauthorised people diving on the wreck and perhaps souveniring parts of it.

Wait further developments!

CLEAR TEST PARTICIPANTS

On Wednesday, 28th June, 2006 the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Billson and I discussed the Government recognised the special health needs of some nuclear test participants, identified in the newly released Mortality and Cancer Incidence of Australian Nuclear Test Participants study.

Although the study found that the rate of some cancers among the nuclear test participants was higher than in the general Australian population, it did not find a link between the increased cancer rates and the exposure to gamma rays. They will be able to access treatment for all malignant cancers, such as those affecting the thyroid, stomach, prostate, liver, lung, skin, throat and breast as well as other non-radiogenic cancers such as non melanoma skin cancer. They will also have access to ongoing health treatment for cancer-related conditions.

Billson said the new health arrangements were aimed at improving the future health and well-being of the participants, and encouraged the participants who have concerns about their health to request a test for cancer from their local doctor. If any conditions are found, they should deal with the Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation claims under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988.

THE BRITISH ATOMIC TESTS IN AUSTRALIA

ONLY THEN TO BE TOLD, the Bells Islands off the Western Australian coast and have believed since then that they were participants in that test. The RAN ships were positioned at varying distances from Monte Bello at the time of the explosion. The crews of those ships were exposed to the atomic flash by having ear Lower Deck air backs were turned toward Monte Bello Islands and their hands across their eyes, having been told that if they were to look at the explosion they would be blinded. You could be excused to believe that if those people believed that they were in the Atomic Test, they would have accepted that they were not participants. The answer is Yes! Did they participate? The answer is Yes! Will they be covered to receive the additional health care outlined in the Ministers Media Release? The answer is an emphatic NO from DVA! At least 50% of the Participants accepted as such or otherwise are dead and by keeping the debate going will see that attrition rate increase at an accelerating rate due to the present age of those who were involved in 1952!

Highlighted apparent generosity expressed in the Ministers Media Release of 28th June, 2006 does not ring true when one checks on your eligibility!

Every narrow requirement put on the qualification of being a Participant in the of 10 kms to have been a participant seems stupid at best probably was unaware of it until recently?

There is another concerning aspect to this current situation. In the Minister June, 2006, the Minister specifically stated, any form of cancer. The Minister went on to state that, those who were involved in the nuclear testing program will be able to access treatment for all malignant cancers such as

The concern now is that DVA, in correspondence, are only referring to eligibility for non-liability health care treatment for all malignant cancers. There is absolutely no mention of treatment for, June, 2006!

In summary, it would appear that someone has less of the gametiogenic cancers such as non melanoma skin cancers! The overall effect of Operation Hurricane on 3rd October, 1952! Is this what the Government and the Minister intended, or has there been another change? The DVA definition of a Nuclear Participant, in Operation Hurricane, eliminated from the ultimate cost of the loudly announced by the Minister of Veterans June, 2006? What sort of mean spirited generosity is this? The Clarke Committee recommended several years ago to award Gold Cards to Nuclear Participants. A few more years and there will be no Participants left!

MEDAL NEWS

An appreciable number of Australian Defence Medals (ADM) have already been issued to those entitled to the medal.

By late 2006 the Directorate of Honours and Awards had received more than 90,000 applications for the ADM and 1.2 million ex Service personnel are known to be eligible to receive this award. So, our members, who are entitled to the award of the ADM, are recommended to submit their application form for the ADM without delay to ensure as early a receipt of the award as possible.

Application forms for the ADM may be downloaded from the Australian Defence Force Website:

www

www.defence.gov.au/dpe

Our application process will speed up if you include certified copies of your relevant Service Records with your application. The certified true copies of your Service Records must be signed by a Justice of the Peace or similarly qualified person.

BELCONNEN NAVAL TRANSMITTING STATION

~~Blue~~ (Blue) Mooney told us that he had viewed on TV recently the VLF masts at Belconnen TX Station being brought down! Did anyone else see this event on TV or witness the real thing? They were large structures! This event brought back memories to Blue of trudging through snow, in darkness, at Belconnen to swap from long to short route and he added that he still recalls the sheep coughing!

Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station (BNTS), ACT, known affectionately as d high frequency communications system. The historical significance of BNTS has been recognised by the Commonwealth Government and the National Trust. BNTS is significant also for its associations with Navy personnel and members of the local community.

The Department of Defence is commencing a study for a social history interpretive project on the BNTS. The project will ~~Project the Canberra Film Corporation is preparing a social history film on the BNTS. The project has been in touch with John Saywell with the view of contributing suitable information in the next phase of the project.~~ Project the Canberra Film Corporation is preparing a social history film on the BNTS. The project has been in touch with John Saywell with the view of contributing suitable information in the next phase of the project.

If any of our readers have something to contribute about life at Belconnen i.e. living and working there, any anecdotes, then John Saywell would be pleased to hear from you with a brief description of what your contribution could be.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

~~Re~~ Dawson, one of our NSW members recently did a review of a book, **EEKING THE SYDNEY** by Glenys McDonald. ~~Publisher:~~ Publisher: University of Western Australia Press

~~Re~~ **Thinking of HMAS Sydney on 19th November, 1941 in an encounter with the German Raider** is stressing because the whole crew of her, even though at that date Japan had not yet entered the war.

The book is aimed at finding the truth. The author had no connection whatsoever with HMAS Sydney until 1988 when she and her family started to run a caravan park at Port Gregory in Western Australia south of Carnarvon. From locals, she heard myths about Japanese bombing of Port Gregory and about them seeing a and ve been further up the coast and 260 miles west of Carnarvon, she became curious and devoted many years of her life trying to find things out by talking with many people and doing much deep research with help from her son, a naval officer. Of course, there were no Australia

lian survivors but there were 319 German survivors and most of them spent from 1941 to 1947 as prisoners of war in Australia. There is lots of amazing information in the book. For instance, Japanese milk bottles had been found in German lifeboats, decomposed bodies of Australian sailors from refully outlined with extensive detail. Conclusions are reached, some definite and some indefinite. It seems, information derived from German prisoners cannot be relied upon. Nevertheless, one of the conclusions is that there is no shred of proof to support the submarine theory. It is a great book to read, one that will really occupy your mind for some time.

FER BADCOE VC COMPLEX

~~Although you cannot prevent your Email program from blocking Emails with particular words in the pammers sidestep this by changing the spelling slightly or adding different characters such as dashes, dots etc. Changing your Email address is often resorted to by many customers to avoid receiving spam, however, this generally only works for about a month. The disadvantage of doing this is that you have the added trouble of informing all your friends, associates etc. of the change.~~

~~Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by assuming an increase in the quantity of spam Emails you receive! Never open an attachment on a spam Email as they will inevitably contain something that will either be to the detriment of your computer or your privacy!~~

WE WEB SITES

~~Re~~ Australian Navy - www.navy.gov.au/vf

~~At~~ this site you can crawl all over submarines, warships and helicopters. The RAN Virtual Fleet puts you on and below deck and

~~the~~ [Heart Foundation](http://www.heartfoundation.com.au/index) www.heartfoundation.com.au/index

~~The~~ Heart Foundation

MAIL ADDRESSES

~~We~~ would appreciate learning of your Email address and any subsequent changes. Our current Email listing contains 282 addresses whereas our Mailout List currently contains 619 addresses. So, please advise John Saywell of your current Email address/update.

AN YOU HELP

~~Our~~ our members is currently seeking information relating to cancers caused by exposure to radar transmission to assist in his dealings with DVA. We did cite one instance that had apparently been accepted by DVA and gave him contact details to follow up. Further, we provided another contact who had completed some extensive personal research on the subject in long unsuccessful dealings with DVA.

~~Are~~ there any of our readers who had any success with DVA in establishing the relationship of radar transmissions and cancer? Alternatively, does anyone have knowledge of proven accepted studies on this subject that could be acceptable by DVA?

~~In~~ the first instance, please contact John Saywell if you have such information.

OUR HEALTH

SI

o GNS OF A STROKE

o We

think that we may have published this information in a previous newsletter, however, the signs of someone having a stroke or has just had a stroke has been drawn to our attention again.

~~We~~ consider the information as being very important and has life saving implications we don't repeating the information. So please take particular note and above all commit it to memory!

ROKE: Remember the first three letters, STR! We will explain the significance of those three letters shortly, but first there

is some useful background information.

Extremely significant factor in treating someone who has just had a stroke is in the time taken to recognise, diagnose and getting appropriate medical care for the person. The faster this happens, then the more likelihood of a full recovery. There can be mini strokes and major strokes and everything in between, but, in all cases, time is of the essence to get treatment.

Occasions strokes go unrecognized until too late it is important to err on the safe side when something happens that could be associated with a stroke.

Example of a stroke occurring might be at a BBQ when someone stumbles unexpectedly and with no satisfactory explanation. An offer of getting medical attention might be refused by that person who then apparently goes on to enjoy the event. Later, the BBQ attendees learn that the person, after going home, felt unwell and was taken to hospital and dies of the effects of a stroke

Recognizing a Stroke the BBQ! All persons don

Symptoms of a stroke are sometimes difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke.

Doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions and as an aide memoir remember the first three letter of the word **STROKE**; the three simple questions are:-

S Ask the person to Smile

Ask the person to ~~R~~alk to speak a simple sentence coherently, e.g. R

3. Ask the person to stick out their tongue, if the tongue is ~~he~~ other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

If the person has trouble with any of the above simple tasks, seek urgent medical assistance bearing in mind that time is of the essence! Far better to be safe than sorry later!

MEMBER - STROKE!

KN CANCERS

Newsletter No. 60 we mentioned about new therapies now available for treating Basal Cell Carcinomas (BCCs) which are now ~~prompted John (Blondie) Keeling who is inappropriate, UK Cancer for members multiple BCCs on face~~ successfully treated with cryo therapy and definitely not as many as in the 1950s!

John had a melanoma surgically removed from an ear lobe and then had his back and scalp treated with Imiquimod Cream five days a week for six weeks. The skin affected does react and forms a scab which will come away leaving new clear skin. John ~~provided a photograph of his back and scalp~~ had a melanoma on his face but at week 7 his pate was almost clear and like a

John Saywell can add that he has had successful treatment on his face for a number of BCCs using a prescribed EFUDIX Cream

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